

## **Trail Talk**

By Steve Litts, Executive Director  
Dickinson County Trails Board

### **CONGRATULATIONS W. OKOBOJI!!**

The West Okoboji City Council had a great bid opening for their trail project (Garlock Slough) on Wednesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>. Estimated to cost over \$516,000, the council received seven bids of eight bids that were under the engineer's estimate. The winning bidder was Howrey Construction of Rockwell City with a bid of \$424,641.81. Howrey Construction is the contractor who built the concrete portion of the trail on the west side of Big Spirit in 2006/07. With the state grant obtained by your Dickinson County Trails Board and Friends of the Trails donations, the cost to the city will be under \$75,000. The trail will begin at Three Cross Road and end at a trailhead in Emerson Bay Recreation Area. Using city streets and old Hyw. 71, past the Taco House, and crossing at the stop light on the new Hwy. 71, trail enthusiasts will be able to connect to the West Lake Okoboji trails from the Spine trailhead by the Nature Trails housing development. This is the third of leg of a trail around West Lake Okoboji that began with a visioning session one Saturday morning three years ago. Congratulations and a sincere thanks to all who made this trail route possible.

### **BIKE TO WORK DAY: BE HEALTHY – HAVE FUN**

Bike to Work day is right around the corner, May 21<sup>st</sup>. Individuals, Wellness Teams & Employers: Here's an opportunity to assemble a company team to ride your bikes to work! Each registered rider will receive a gift from DCTB and the winning team from an area business will receive a traveling trophy, engraved with the business name and date, to display in their reception or employee break room.

Cycling is a fun activity that also provides health benefits. Employers are keenly aware of the cost of lost workdays due to illness. Form a team and let us know you'll be participating. Yvonne Taylor, DCTB board member, is putting together some fun incentives to make your Bike to Work Day an extra fun event. Dust off the bike, inflate the tires and get ready to ride! If your place of work has not received a registration form, contact Yvonne at 336-4843 or Steve at 336-9312 to receive a registration packet.

### **BAY HARBOR TRAIL NEEDS**

It's been gratifying to see walkers, joggers and cyclists on the Bay Harbor Trail this spring. For those who have been on it, you will have noted some issues that remain to be resolved. DCTB is working with our engineer, J&W Engineering, to bring this project to completion. They include additional retaining wall construction, redirecting drainage away from the trail at several points so water doesn't pool on the trail, connecting the tunnel lights to a power source and the completion of signage. DCTB is also working with the PMC board to slow down the rate of flow from the west ditch to the east side of the road. We've applied for a permit from the Iowa DOT to construct rock check dams in strategic locations that will accomplish this.

### **UPCOMING TRAIL EVENTS**

May 11<sup>th</sup> - Pure Fishing Wellness is sponsoring 5K and 10K walk/run for their employees.

June 5<sup>th</sup> - Mini-Wakan 5K and 10K run. (Replaces the Trails Poker Run, sponsored by Dr. Steve Fila and the Spirit Lake Chiropractic. A big thanks to Dr. Fila and his staff for their past support of this event.) Be looking for more details on the Mini-Wakan event.

June 19<sup>th</sup> - The Pearson Lakes Area Art Center is sponsoring a 5K and 10K fundraiser.

June 26<sup>th</sup> - The University of Okoboji Campus Run or Ride. Always a fun event that you don't want to miss. Contact Okoboji Tourism at 712 336-2209.

### **BID LETTING DATE CHANGE**

I reported to you last month that the City of Lake Park would have a bid letting for the Silver Lake Trail on April 27<sup>th</sup>. That date has now been rescheduled for May 7<sup>th</sup> to give contractors additional time to develop their bids. Bids will be opened on May 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at the Lake Park City Hall and acted on at the regular meeting of the Lake Park City Council on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

That's the news for this month. Be checking next month's column and our website for additional information on trail construction and activities. (<http://www.co.dickinson.ia.us/> and click on Trails Board) Until then, as always, Happy Trails to you and yours.